

SECTION 01 01 50
MEDICAL CENTER REQUIREMENTS**PART 1 - GENERAL****1.1 GENERAL INTENTION**

A. This section pertains to medical center policy for construction projects performed at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. Safety and health concerns are taken seriously. Both our staff and yours are expected to strictly adhere to the regulations and requirements. This is exceedingly important, since we must be primarily concerned for the safety of our patients. In this regard, OSHA Standards may protect worker safety and health, but they have minimal benefit for protecting the safety and health of our patients, due primarily to their differing medical conditions. Review this information as orientation with your personnel performing work on site. Where the requirements as outlined in this and section 01010 are differing, the more stringent shall apply.

1.2 REQUIREMENTS**A. Security and Work Hours:**

1. Secure all construction areas, especially mechanical and electrical rooms against entry of unauthorized individuals including patients.
2. Notify the Project Engineer for permission to work after hours and weekends. Standard work hours for the medical center are Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
3. All contractors shall wear and display VA contractor badges provided by the PROJECT ENGINEER. For transient contractors, such as limited duration subcontracts, badges are not required, but must have some form of identifying the personnel as contractors, i.e., company issued id and a valid driver's license.

B. Key Security:

1. Only a limited number of keys will be issued to the contractor.
2. If the Contractor loses a key, all areas that are keyed to that key will be rekeyed at the Contractor's expense at a charge of \$50 per key and \$50 per change, and all new keys required to be issued will be completed at the Contractor's expense.
3. Ensure all doors leading to and from construction are locked to prevent access to the area from unauthorized persons.

C. General Safety:

1. Follow all federal, state and local safety and health regulations.
2. Maintain safety in the construction site/area in accordance with the provisions of the contract, which includes the OSHA Regulations,

National Electrical Codes, NFPA 70, National Electric Code and NFPA 101, Life Safety Code. Work in a safe manner and take all proper precautions while performing your work. Extra precautions shall be taken when working around persons occupying the building during construction.

3. Provide Personal Preventive Equipment (PPE) for your employees.
 4. Post appropriate signs in specific hazardous areas.
 5. Keep tools, ladders, etc. away from patients to prevent injuries.
- D. Safety Inspections: The professional Occupational Safety & Health staff at this facility will perform Safety inspections of all contract operations. Written reports of unsafe practices or conditions will be reported to the RESIDENT ENGINEER and Contracting Officer for immediate attention and resolution.
- E. Fire Alarms:
1. The fire alarm system connects all buildings at this facility, and is activated by various heat, duct, manual pull stations, and smoke sensors. Manual pull stations are provided at each entrance. Please survey the area in which you are working to locate the manual pull stations.
 2. If in the event of a fire alarm sounding, you are to remain in your area, unless medical center personnel (Safety, Nursing or Engineering) instruct otherwise or unless a fire situation is in your area, in which case you should immediately evacuate.
 3. Any work involving the fire protection systems will require written permission to proceed from the Project Engineer. DO NOT tamper with or otherwise disturb any fire alarm system components without prior written permission. To do so without written permission will result in an adverse action. A pull station must remain active through the entire project even if other fire alarm devices are asked to be deactivated.
- F. Hazardous Materials:
1. Many of the operations you are scheduled to perform may involve the use of hazardous materials. Prior to bringing hazardous materials on site, all Material Safety Data Sheets will be submitted through the Project Engineer for evaluation by the facilities Industrial Hygienist/Safety Representative.
 2. Storage of hazardous materials within buildings will be minimal with only enough on hand to perform daily work tasks. Flammable materials will either be removed from buildings at the end of the workshift or stored in approved flammable storage containers.
 3. Care must be taken to assure adequate ventilation to remove vapors of

hazardous materials in use. Many of the patients being cared for in the facility are susceptible to environmental contaminants, even when odors seem minimal. You will isolate those areas where vapors are produced and ventilate to the most extent possible to reduce the number of complaints.

4. When chemicals become odorous, the Safety Office should be contacted immediately, i.e., adhesive remover used to remove glue, so employees in adjacent areas can be notified.

G. Contact with Asbestos Containing Materials:

1. Due to the age of our buildings, many contain asbestos containing materials (ACM). Primary ACM uses in the medical center includes floor tile, mastic, piping and HVAC insulation. The medical center has performed a comprehensive asbestos survey and has identified accessible ACM. Some areas contain damaged asbestos and should not be accessed without prior abatement.
2. The most common type of ACM insulation you may encounter includes thermal system insulation (TSI) and vinyl asbestos tile floor (VAT). ACM TSI is generally covered with a cloth wrap or lagging and the asbestos substrate generally appear white in color. DO NOT SAND, DRILL, GOUGE, OR OTHERWISE DISTURB THIS TYPE OF INSULATION. Contractors disturbing or releasing asbestos containing materials will be liable for all damages and cleanup costs.
3. Where disturbance of asbestos is likely, it has been addressed in the contract for removal. If contact with the presence of Asbestos Is Presented, STOP ALL WORK in the immediate area and immediately contact the Project Engineer and the Industrial Hygienist/Safety Office to make necessary arrangements for removal.
4. In some areas, asbestos insulation has been identified on elbows between fiberglass piping insulation as patching materials among the fiberglass insulation. Fiberglass insulation used in this facility is usually yellow or pink in color, wrapped either by cloth or paper lagging.
5. To protect and ensure all your employees are aware that asbestos containing materials have been used in the construction of this facility, you are required to have them review this section and complete the awareness statement included as Attachment A. Once this documentation has been signed by all employees, forward to the Project Engineer for documentation.
6. A complete assessment of asbestos materials and conditions are available for viewing by contacting the facilities Industrial Hygienist at 688-6000, extension 5704 or the Safety Representative at

Highland Drive at 412-365-4460. Prior to performing work above any ceiling or starting in a new area, consult with the Project Engineer concerning existing conditions of ACM.

7. Some of the areas in the facility are identified as restricted areas due to condition of ACM. These are readily labeled. DO NOT ENTER THESE AREAS unless first contacting the Project Engineer. Entry requirements to these areas are awareness of the hazards, proper protective clothing (coveralls and respirators), and personal monitoring in accordance with OSHA requirements.
8. Submit contractor asbestos awareness statements for all persons working on the site prior to commencing work.

H. Environmental Protection:

1. It may help you to be aware of the seriousness, which the environmental protection requirements of each contract are regarded. Adherence to these requirements is subject to continuing scrutiny from the community and backed by severe penalties, such as fines and incarceration. These environmental requirements will be strictly enforced.
2. NO hazardous materials will be disposed of on Government property during and after completion of the project. All waste will be hauled off-site or disposed of in contractor-owned and operated waste removal containers.
3. A copy of all waste manifests for special or hazardous wastes will be forwarded to the Project Engineer and the Industrial Hygienist. Environmental requirements will be strictly enforced.

I. Permit Required Confined Spaces:

1. Contractors performing work on this facility will follow all requirements outlined in OSHA Standards for working in confined spaces. There are numerous permits required confined spaces on this facility. These spaces have been identified as a confined space. Some spaces have been posted, but the majority have not due to their configuration.
2. Confined spaces are areas which are large enough to be entered, have limited egress/exit potential, and are not designed for permanent human occupancy. If you encounter any space which meets this definition, if it is a suspected confined space, please contact the Project Engineer and the Industrial Hygienist/Safety Office for a determination.
3. Contractors performing work in confined spaces are responsible for compliance with all applicable standards and regulations.

J. Housekeeping:

1. Protect patients and VA personnel in occupied areas from the hazards of dust, noise, construction debris and material associated with a construction environment. Keep work area clear, clean and free of loose debris, construction materials and partially installed work which would create a safety hazard or interfere with VA personnel duties and traffic.
 2. Wet mop occupied areas clean and remove any accumulation of dust/debris from cutting or drilling from any surface at the end of each workday. Mops and buckets will not be provided.
 3. Make every effort to keep dust and noise to a minimum at all times. Take special precautions to protect VA equipment from damage including excessive dust.
 4. Maintain clear access to mechanical, electrical devices, equipment and main corridors. This will ensure access to existing systems in the event of an emergency.
 5. Clean area of all construction debris and dust upon completion of demolition and/or renovation daily.
 6. During construction operations, keep existing finishes protected from damage. Cover and protect all carpets during construction. Any carpets or surfaces damaged as a result of construction activities will be replaced at the contractor expense.
- K. Hot Work Permits:
1. Any hot work operations including cutting, welding, thermal welding, brazing, soldering, grinding, thermal spraying, thawing pipes or any other similar activity, will require a Hot Work Permit to be obtained by the Contractor from the Safety Officer. The Contractor will be responsible for conforming to all Medical Center regulations, policies and procedures concerning Hot Work Permits as outlined below:
 - a. Prior to the performance of hot work in patient-occupied buildings, a request for a Hot Work Permit will be made to the Safety Department.
 - b. The Project Engineer will inspect the area and ensure that the requirements of NFPA 241 and OSHA standards have been satisfied. The Hot Work Permit will be granted and will be posted in the immediate area of the work.
 - c. The Hot Work Permit will apply only to the location identified on the permit. If additional areas involve hot work, additional permits must be requested.
 - d. Upon completion of all hot work, the Project Engineer will be notified by the responsible individual to perform a re-inspection of the area.

2. Do not use any of the extinguishers in the medical center for standby purpose while conducting hot work. Contractors are required to supply their own Class ABC extinguishers. Medical center extinguishers are only to be used in the event of a fire.
- L. Emergency Medical Services: Emergency medical services for stabilization purposes are available for contractors at this facility. For medical emergencies, dial 333 when inside any building. Report the nature of the emergency and location. The operator will dispatch in-house personnel or coordinate an outside emergency assistance based on the nature of the emergency.
- M. Use of Government Owned Material and Equipment: Use of Government owned material and equipment is PROHIBITED. This includes flatbeds, etc. for delivery of materials.
- N. Superintendent Communications: At all times during the performance of this contract, the Contractor's Superintendent is to be available by cell phone. At the beginning of the contract and prior to beginning any construction, supply the Project Engineer with the contact information for the superintendent.
- O. Parking: Contractor and contractor's employees shall make their own arrangements for vehicle parking off-site.
- P. Traffic:
 1. Traffic hazards are minimal at this facility. Drivers should be particularly concerned with pedestrian traffic.
 2. Seat belt use is mandatory on the station.
 3. Federal police officers maintain a 24-hour patrol of the area.
 4. No parking/driving on sidewalks and/or grass unless authorized.
- Q. Smoking Policy: **NO SMOKING IS PERMITTED WITHIN THE BUILDINGS at any time** or in/near hazardous areas. Contractors are permitted to smoke in medical center staff designated areas only. Smoking inside a government building is subject to a monetary fine without warning.
- R. Road Closures: For any work requiring closure of a road or parking lot, a request for closure will be made in writing at least 5 days in advance for approval by the Project Engineer and Fire Department. Contractor requiring road closures will complete a permit and forward to the Project Engineer for authorization by the Fire Department. Permits will be issued for no longer than one week. Multiple permits will authorize work lasting longer than one week. If work affects one lane of traffic, the contractor must review the plan and get approval from the Project Engineer prior to work starting. The contractor is responsible for all safety signage, barricades and flagmen.

S. Delivery of Materials: All materials to be delivered to VA Loading docks will be coordinated by the contractor. VA personnel will not receive any contractor materials and the contractor will meet all deliveries at the dock to ensure receipt, custody, and removal of items from the dock so not to impact hospital function. If contractor is not present on the site to receive materials in a timely manner, the delivery will be refused and sent away to free the dock space. Extension of construction time will not be granted for refusal to receive contractor materials.

PART 2 - PRODUCTS (Not Applicable)

PART 3 - EXECUTION (Not Applicable)

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Attachment A

**CONTRACTOR/SUBCONTRACTOR/EMPLOYEE
NOTIFICATION OF ASBESTOS**

The department of veterans affairs medical center located in Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was constructed during a period when asbestos was commonly used in building materials.

The VA Pittsburgh healthcare system (VAPHS) has completed a survey for asbestos. Most buildings contain some type of asbestos (i.e., steam lines, floor tiles, crawlspaces, etc.).

If you or your employee encounters suspected friable asbestos or conditions that may cause suspected asbestos to become friable, notify the Project Engineer or the industrial hygienist/safety office immediately.

When working in areas that are suspected of having asbestos, relocate employees and patients from the area until work is completed.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the Project Engineer at ext. 5706

Thank you for your assistance.

Please sign and date as acknowledgement of the above information.

Contractor/subcontractor employee signature:

Employee Name
Date

Contractor/Subcontractor

Attachment B
PERMIT
FOR CUTTING AND WELDING
WITH PORTABLE GAS OR ARC EQUIPMENT

VA Project No: _____

Name of Contractor's Firm: _____

Date: _____

Building/Location: _____

Work To Be Done: _____

Any Special Precautions: _____

Fire Watch Required: ____ Yes ____ No

The location where the work is to be performed has been examined, necessary precautions have been taken, and permission is granted for this work.

Signed _____
(Safety Official Authorizing Hot Work)

Permit Expires: _____ (Date)

Time Hot Work Started: _____ Time Hot Work Completed: _____

FINAL CHECK-UP

Work area and all adjacent areas to which sparks and heat might have spread (including floors above and below and on opposite sides of walls) were inspected 30 minutes after the work was completed and were found firesafe.

Signed _____
(Contractor's Fire Watch)

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ATTENTION

Before approving any cutting and welding permit, the contractor's authorized representative or their appointee shall inspect the work area and confirm that precautions have been taken to prevent fire in accordance with NFPA Standard No. 51B.

Interim Life Safety Measures/Precautions

- Sprinklers are in service where installed
- Cutting and welding equipment in good repair
- Within 10 meters (30 feet); floors swept clean of combustible, no combustible material or flammable liquids, all wall and floor openings covered, and covers suspended beneath work to collect sparks
- When working on enclosed equipment and in confined space, equipment and area is free of flammable vapors
- Fire watch provided during and 30 minutes after operation (60 minutes for torch applied roofing operations)
- Portable fire extinguisher with adequate rating available in the immediate vicinity
- Standpipe system in service where installed
- Protection of any sprinkler heads when hot work is in close proximity
- Smoking prohibited in immediate vicinity
- Non-combustible shields provided when hot work is done near combustible walls, partitions, floors, roofs
- Prohibition of hot work on pipes contacting combustible walls
- Personnel trained in use of equipment including portable fire extinguishers and sounding a fire alarm
- Final check-up conducted after 30 minutes

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Attachment C

**PERMIT
FOR ROAD CLOSURE**

VA Project No: _____ Date of
Request: _____

Name of Contractor's Firm:

Date(s) of Requested Closure _____ Time(s) of Requested
Closure: _____

Location Description:

Work To Be Done:

Protection Required: (To be completed by the Project Engineer)

- ☐ Solid barricade with flashing lights to guard excavation site
- ☐ Warning cones and/or construction barrier tape
- ☐ Construction fencing
- ☐ Flag/attendant for directing traffic
- ☐ Cover excavation site with steel sheet to permit traffic flow after
administrative work hours.
- ☐ Other (Describe)

THE PROJECT ENGINEER

CONCURRENCE: _____ DATE _____

FIRE DEPARTMENT APPROVAL: _____ DATE _____

(Fire Department Officer approving permit will contact on duty Police Officer to
inform of closure)

Original copy to be maintained in the Safety Department until work is completed.
Once completed, return original to the Project Engineer for filing.